

From: [DESE Food and Nutrition Services](#)
To: [DESE Food and Nutrition Services](#)
Subject: Important Food and Nutrition Services Weekly Update
Date: Thursday, May 26, 2022 4:09:07 PM

Dear School Food Directors and School Authorities

April Meal Reimbursements and Supply Chain Assistance (SCA) Payments Delayed Until

June- We apologize for any inconvenience this delay may cause, however our State Payment system experienced issues beyond our control. The April reimbursement for school meals and the SCA payment will now be processed on June 6th.

Donated Foods- On May 20, the J. M. Smucker Company [voluntarily recalled select Jif products](#) sold in the U.S. for potential Salmonella contamination. Recalled products were distributed nationwide to retail stores and other outlets. The [FDA and CDC are investigating illnesses](#) linked to recalled product. Fourteen illnesses in 12 states have been reported, with two hospitalizations and no deaths. This is a commercial recall. Due to the number of products being recalled, and peanut butter's popularity, it is likely that these products have reached many Federal nutrition assistance program participants' homes through commercial retail channels. Consumers, including those who participate in FNS programs, who have questions about how to seek reimbursement for their recalled product or how to report adverse reactions should visit www.jif.com/contact-us[External Link Disclaimer](#) or call 800-828-9980 Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Eastern Time. **Please be aware that the following items from our Net Off Invoice (NOI) distributions were on the JIF recall list: JIF Peanut Butter Cups (92100) and JIF Peanut Butter Cans (24331).**

Let's Talk Tuesday- If you were not able to join [Let's Talk Tuesday](#) on April 19th we discussed details concerning the expiration of the SY21-22 waivers and the Seamless Summer Option. The recording is posted.

Paid Lunch Equity (PLE)- The SY 2022-2023 Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) tool is now available on the [Food and Nutrition Services Paid Lunch Equity](#) website. In addition, our office applied for a waiver for Paid Lunch Equity. If approved, this waiver provides schools with the flexibility to not raise their paid lunch prices in SY 2022-23. This provides schools the flexibility to price their paid lunches at the level they feel is best based on their local needs. This includes decreasing paid lunch price from their previous levels, however, schools should carefully review their budgets before adjusting their paid lunch prices in SY 2022-23.

P-EBT-Please carefully review the [revised P-EBT Letter to Schools](#) concerning the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer for school year 2021-22. Also review the [P-EBT Eligibility Flow Chart](#). These benefits are not yet ready to roll out but we wanted to make you aware. At this time, our office is still working closely with USDA before we are ready to start accepting data from schools.

May is Food Allergy Awareness Month- The Office of Food Safety partners with the Institute of Child Nutrition (ICN) to offer food allergy resources tailored for specific audiences. Here are several resources that have been published in recent months. All of these fact sheets, and more food allergy resources, are available through ICN's Food Safety page: [Food Safety Resources – Institute of Child Nutrition \(theicn.org\)](#). As you may know, the [Food Allergy Safety, Treatment, Education, and Research Act of 2021](#) (FASTER Act of 2021) requires sesame to be recognized as the ninth major food allergen by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration beginning January 1, 2023.

Farm to School- [Regional Farm to School Meeting flyer](#): you are invited to attend one of our regional in-person meetings, during which we will have interactive sessions to discuss how we can move forward with Farm to School/ECE in Missouri. Of special note, local snacks will be available, and attendees will be entered to win door prizes (see flyer). To find the dates, times, locations, and registration information, please see the flyer. There are multiple sessions just to break it up geographically; there is no need to attend more than one session. Feel free to pick the one that works best for your schedule and location.

Thank you,

Food and Nutrition Services | (573) 751-3526